Renaissance Press $2.95
12

Amelia Rules!

"Superheroes" Part Two

A-MAIL

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G.A.S.P.
WANTS YOU!

If you spend any amount of time in or around the comic industry, you have no doubt heard a great deal of lip service paid to the value of quality comic books for kids. About how they are the best way to attract new readers to the field. About how children's comics are an absolute necessity if the industry is to continue past this current generation of superhero fans. And indeed, the past several years have seen the emergence of many wonderful kid's books. ***Akiko, Growing Up Enchanted, Patty Cake and Friends, WJHC*** and other titles have all contributed greatly to this often neglected segment of our market. Still, if you look at industry sales figures, none of theses books cracks the top 50 or even the top 100 in comic book shops.

I would like to change that.

Because of Amelia Rules! association with ibooks, and Simon and Schuster, we have an almost unprecedented window of opportunity to have the media spotlight shine on this corner of the comic book world. Our first trade paperback is poised to enter it's third printing in eighteen months. Our second is ready to go, and we have received major interest from book clubs. We have even entered into an agreement with German publisher Eidelon, for a translated edition. these are opportunities that cannot be wasted.

It is my intention to spend the next eighteen months campaigning on behalf of quality kids comics, and to try attract as many young readers as possible to this industry. To do this, we will have to look beyond our traditional marketplace, and reach out to schools, to libraries, to scout troops, to clubs and to any other place that has been neglected as the comic book industry drifted into it's current state of isolation.

I believe there are tens of thousands of young readers who would love comic books, but to reach them I need your help.

All campaigns need funding, and to this end, I have come up with the following proposal. We need fifty dedicated Amelia readers to become full fledged member of G.A.S.P.. Members will receive:

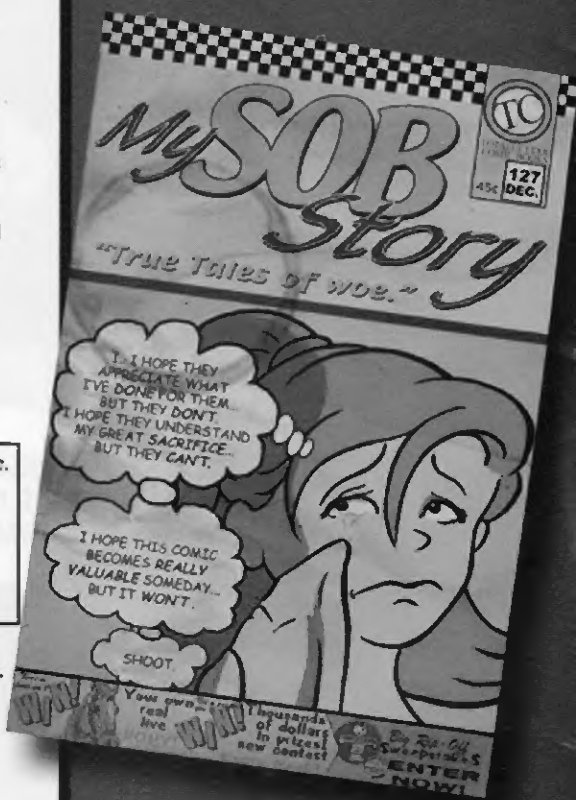
A full color watercolor sketch of the Amelia character of your choice.
One page of original Amelia art (our choice, but guaranteed to feature Amelia)
An autographed full color Amelia Rules! poster (18x24)
A complete run of the "Superheroes" series as it is published.
A membership card.
A personal letter of thanks from me.

The cost of this membership is $200 dollars, and will be limited to fifty individuals. All proceeds will go towards financing the campaign. This will replace our charity art auction for this year. To become a member, write to the e-mail address or PO box at the top of this page.

If you are a teacher, librarian, comic shop owner, fellow creator, scout master, book seller, or just an interested individual, and want to be a part of this campaign please write. We will need help organizing events, planning our strategy and networking.

With your help, I believe we can shake this industry out of it's steroids and spandex daze. We can rise above the Fantagraphics gloom. We can look at the books on the comic shop walls and say; "Childhood is back... Comics are for kids again... and you know what?

AMELIA RULES!"



AMELIA Rules!

"Superheroes" Part Two

Written, Illustrated and colored by:
Jimmy Gownley

Edited by:
Michael Cohen

Marketing and Promotion by:
Karen Gownley

This book is the twelfth issue in the continuing saga of Amelia Louise McBride.

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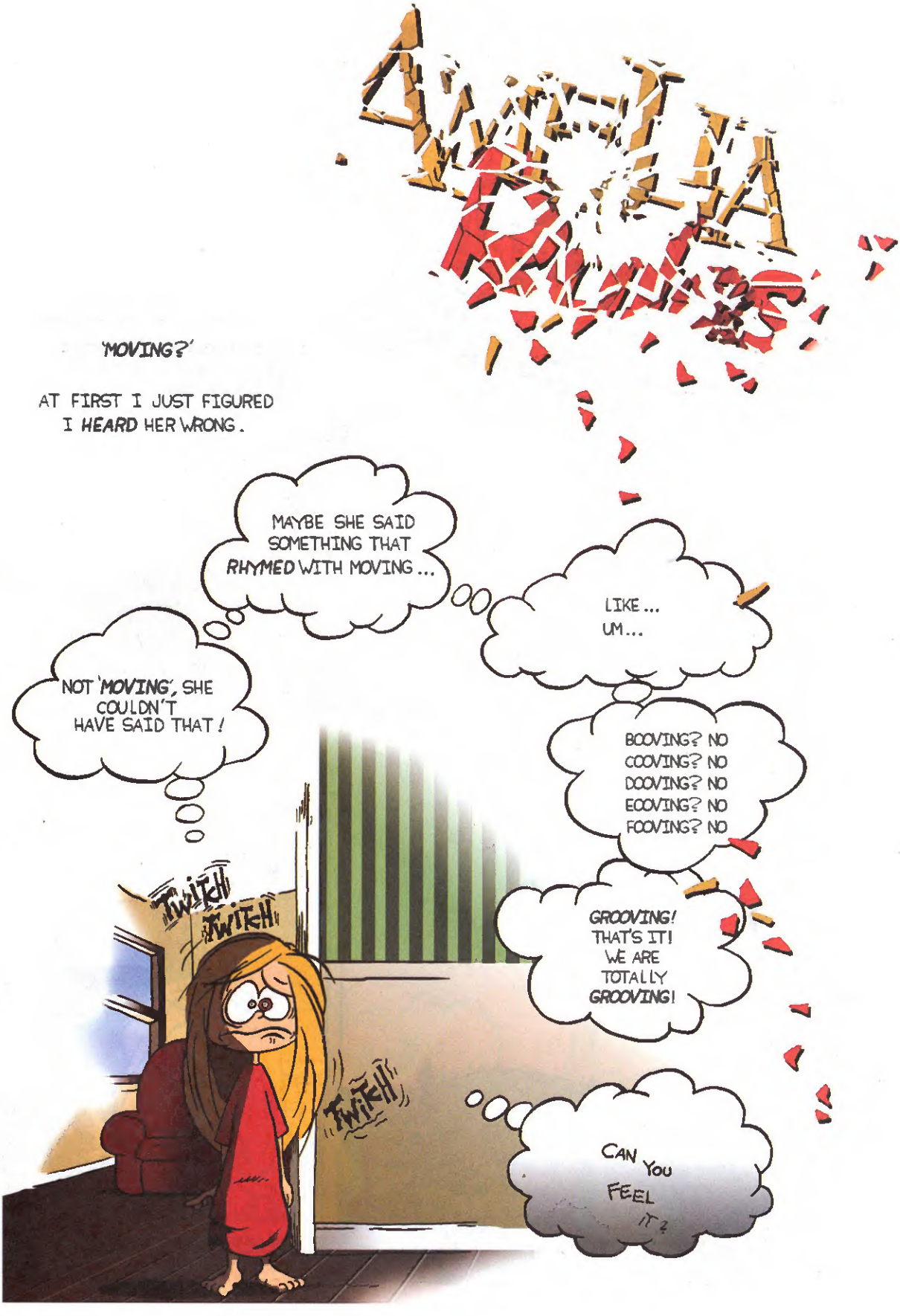
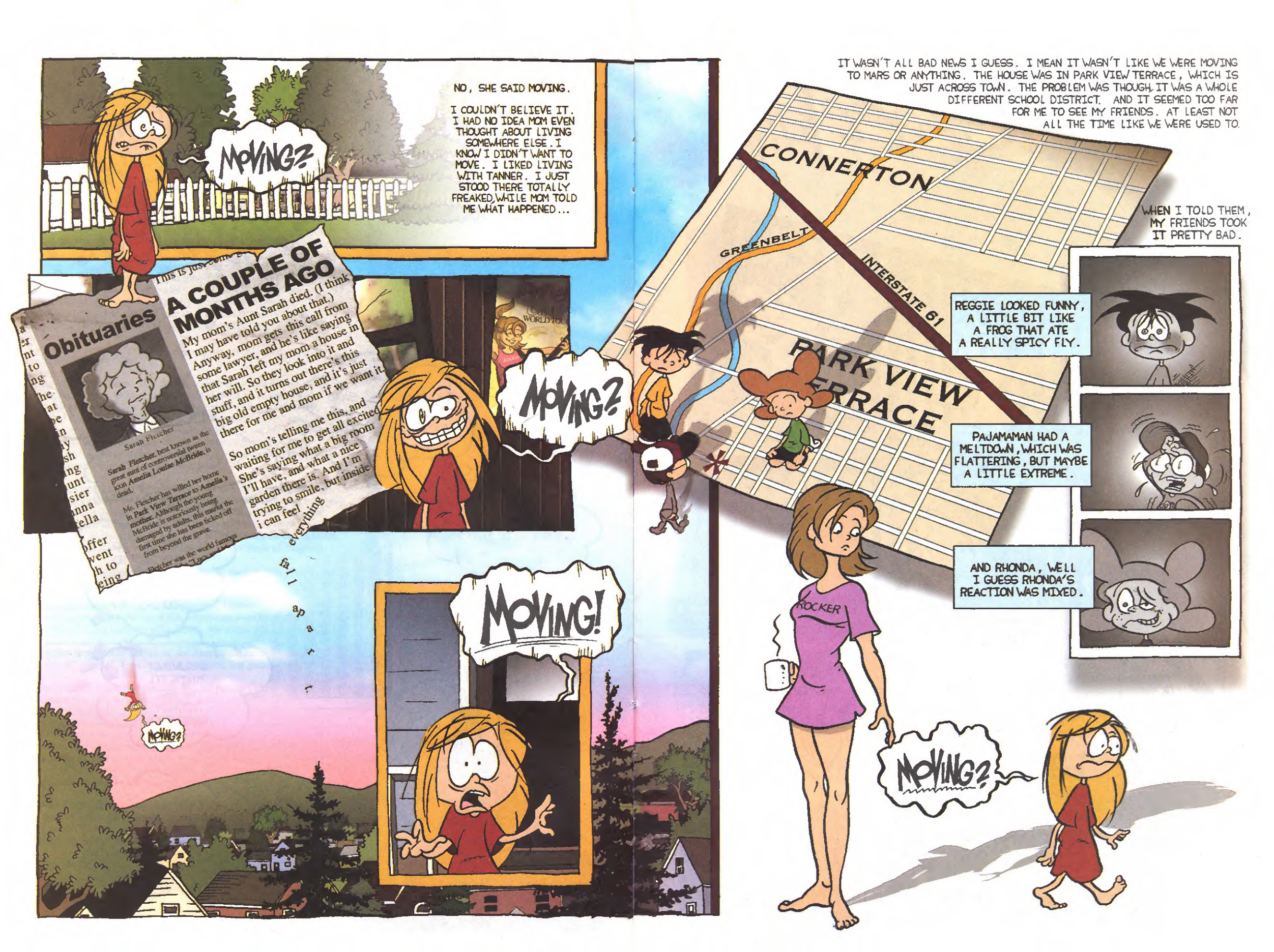
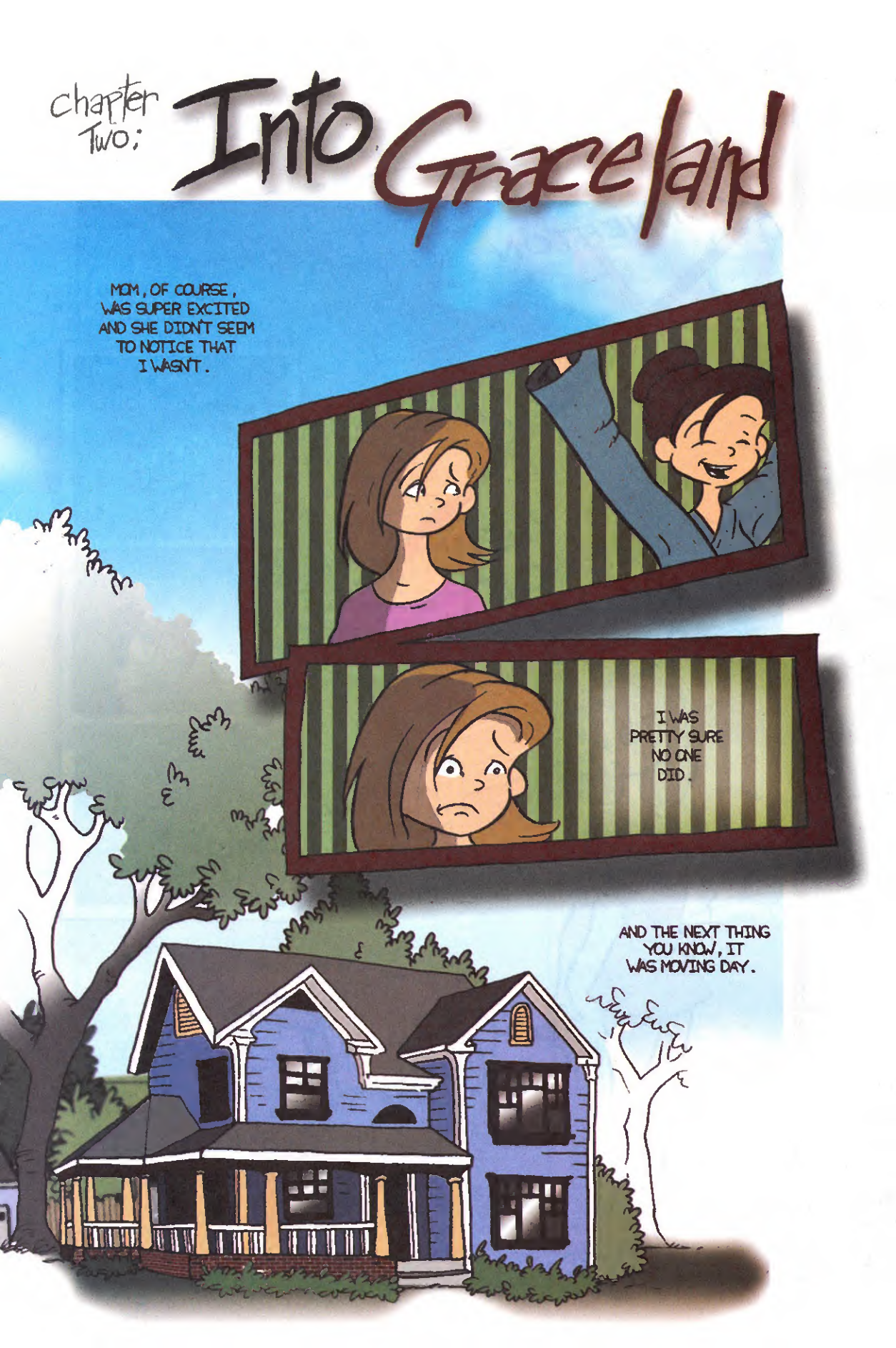
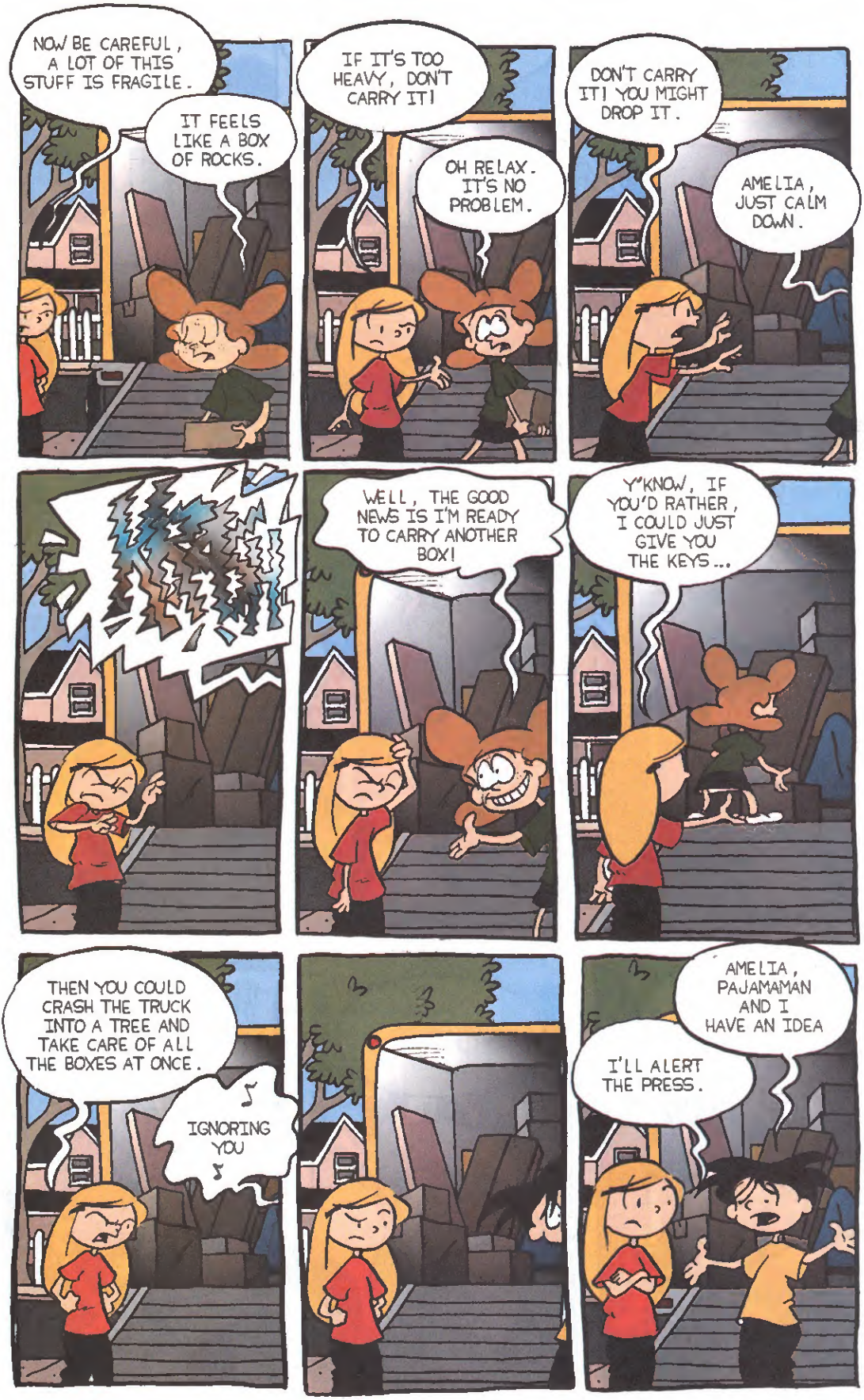
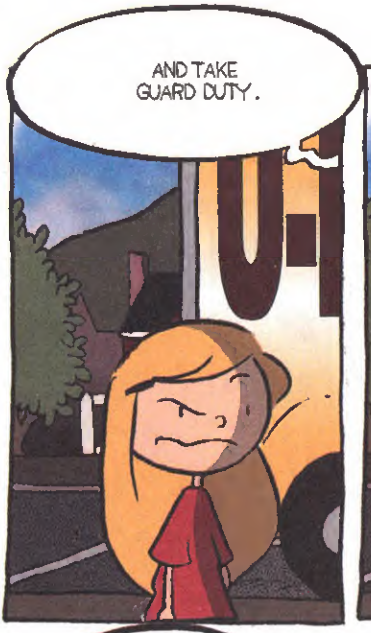

ANGELA
'MOVING?'
AT FIRST I JUST FIGURED I HEARD HER WRONG.
MAYBE SHE SAID SOMETHING THAT RHYMED WITH MOVING...
LIKE... UM...
NOT 'MOVING', SHE COULDN'T HAVE SAID THAT!
BOOVING? NO COOVING? NO DOOVING? NO EOOVING? NO FOOVING? NO
GROOVING! THAT'S IT! WE ARE TOTALLY GROOVING!
TWITCH
TWITCH
TWITCH
CAN YOU FEEL IT?


MOVING?
NO, SHE SAID MOVING.
I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT. I HAD NO IDEA MOM EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT LIVING SOMEWHERE ELSE. I KNOW I DIDN'T WANT TO MOVE. I LIKED LIVING WITH TANNER. I JUST STOOD THERE TOTALLY FREAKED, WHILE MOM TOLD ME WHAT HAPPENED...
Obituaries
A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO
My mom's Aunt Sarah died. (I think I may have told you about that.) Anyway, mom gets this call from some lawyer, and he's like saying that Sarah left my mom a house in her will. So they look into it and stuff, and it turns out there's this big old empty house, and it's just there for me and mom if we want it.
So mom's telling me this, and waiting for me to get all excited. She's saying what a big room I'll have, and what a nice garden there is. And I'm trying to smile, but inside everything i can feel
fall apart.
MOVING?
MOVING!
MOVING?
IT WASN'T ALL BAD NEWS I GUESS. I MEAN IT WASN'T LIKE WE WERE MOVING TO MARS OR ANYTHING. THE HOUSE WAS IN PARK VIEW TERRACE, WHICH IS JUST ACROSS TOWN. THE PROBLEM WAS THOUGH, IT WAS A WHOLE DIFFERENT SCHOOL DISTRICT. AND IT SEEMED TOO FAR FOR ME TO SEE MY FRIENDS. AT LEAST NOT ALL THE TIME LIKE WE WERE USED TO.
CONNERTON
GREENBELT
INTERSTATE 61
PARK VIEW TERRACE
WHEN I TOLD THEM, MY FRIENDS TOOK IT PRETTY BAD.
REGGIE LOOKED FUNNY, A LITTLE BIT LIKE A FROG THAT ATE A REALLY SPICY FLY.
PAJAMAMAN HAD A MELTDOWN, WHICH WAS FLATTERING, BUT MAYBE A LITTLE EXTREME.
AND RHONDA, WELL I GUESS RHONDA'S REACTION WAS MIXED.
ROCKER
MOVING?


chapter Two:
Into Graceland
MOM, OF COURSE, WAS SUPER EXCITED AND SHE DIDN'T SEEM TO NOTICE THAT I WASN'T.
I WAS PRETTY SURE NO ONE DID.
AND THE NEXT THING YOU KNOW, IT WAS MOVING DAY.


NOW BE CAREFUL, A LOT OF THIS STUFF IS FRAGILE.
IT FEELS LIKE A BOX OF ROCKS.
IF IT'S TOO HEAVY, DON'T CARRY IT!
OH RELAX. IT'S NO PROBLEM.
DON'T CARRY IT! YOU MIGHT DROP IT.
AMELIA, JUST CALM DOWN.
WELL, THE GOOD NEWS IS I'M READY TO CARRY ANOTHER BOX!
Y'KNOW, IF YOU'D RATHER, I COULD JUST GIVE YOU THE KEYS...
THEN YOU COULD CRASH THE TRUCK INTO A TREE AND TAKE CARE OF ALL THE BOXES AT ONCE.
IGNORING YOU
AMELIA, PAJAMAMAN AND I HAVE AN IDEA
I'LL ALERT THE PRESS.

I PROPOSE THAT PM AND I FORGET THE LIFTING...


AND TAKE GUARD DUTY.

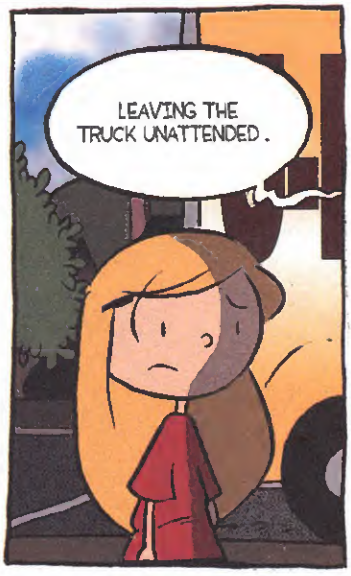
OH AND THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH TRYING TO GET OUT OF WORK?

NO WAY AMELIA, SECURITY IS A REAL ISSUE.

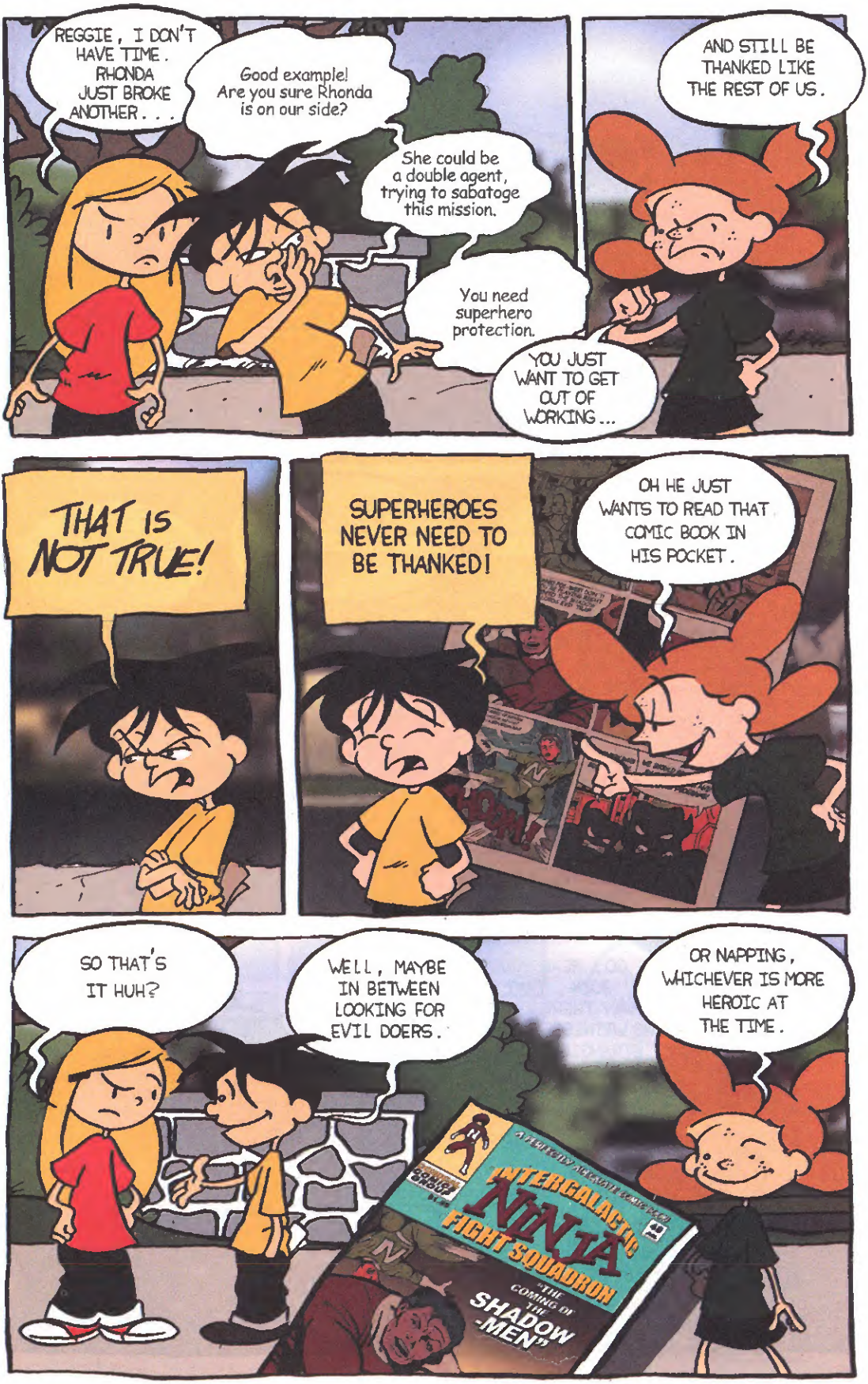
SCENARIO...

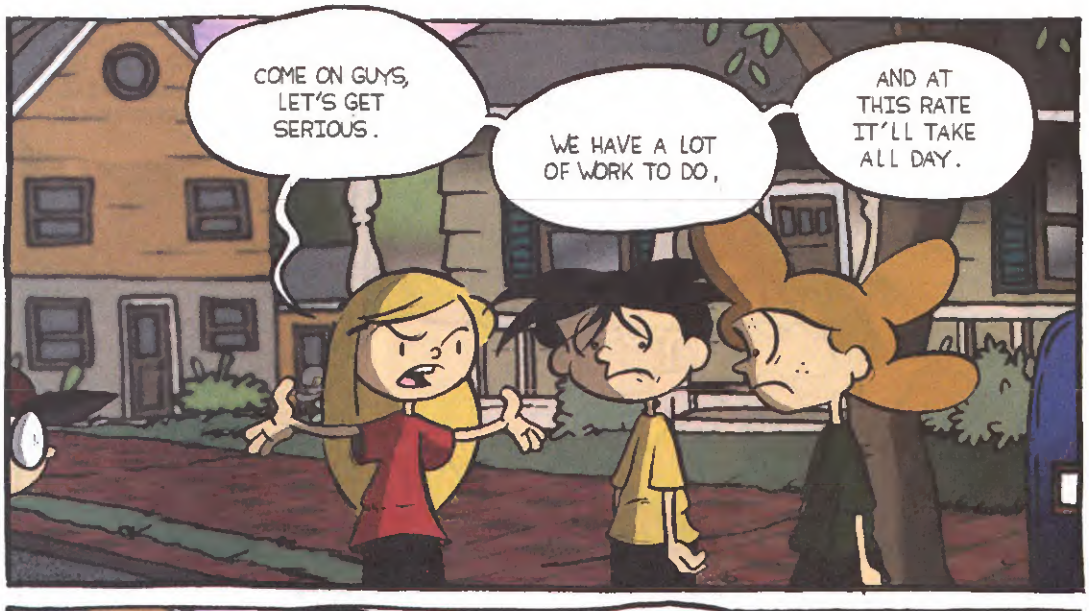
IT'S HOT... EVERYONE'S LIFTING HEAVY STUFF...
oh BROTHER!

EVERYONE GOES INSIDE FOR A COOL TASTY BEVERAGE.


LEAVING THE TRUCK UNATTENDED.

THE PERFECT CHANCE FOR A ROGUE SUPERVILLIAN TO ATTACK

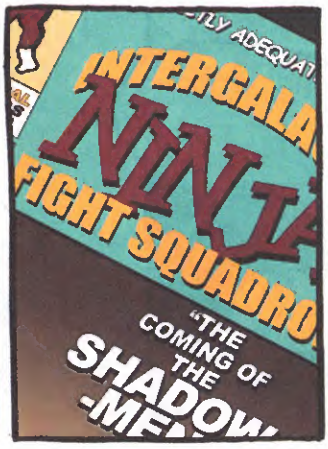

REGGIE, I DON'T HAVE TIME. RHONDA JUST BROKE ANOTHER...
Good example! Are you sure Rhonda is on our side?
She could be a double agent, trying to sabatoge this mission.
You need superhero protection.
YOU JUST WANT TO GET OUT OF WORKING...
AND STILL BE THANKED LIKE THE REST OF US.
THAT IS NOT TRUE!
SUPERHEROES NEVER NEED TO BE THANKED!
OH HE JUST WANTS TO READ THAT COMIC BOOK IN HIS POCKET.
SO THAT'S IT HUH?
WELL, MAYBE IN BETWEEN LOOKING FOR EVIL DOERS.
OR NAPPING, WHICHEVER IS MORE HEROIC AT THE TIME.
INTERGALACTIC NINJA FIGHT SQUADRON
"THE COMING OF THE SHADOW-MEN"


COME ON GUYS, LET'S GET SERIOUS.
WE HAVE A LOT OF WORK TO DO,
AND AT THIS RATE IT'LL TAKE ALL DAY.

NOW, I'M SURE THERE'S A JOB FOR EVERYONE.
RIGHT, LIKE I SAID, I'M SECURITY.
AND I'LL BE FIRST PRINCESS IN CHARGE OF DROPPING THINGS.

GO, READ YOUR BOOK, THAT WAY THERE'LL BE NO WITNESSES WHEN I STRANGLE RHONDA.
ER... OKAY.
NO WONDER SUPERHEROES DON'T GET THANKED.

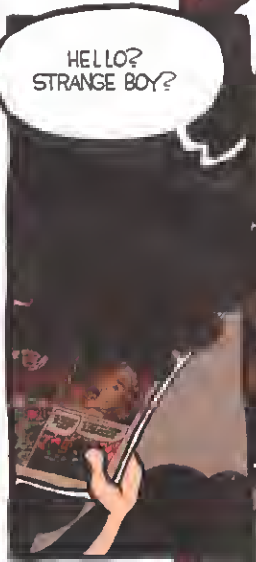
IT'S A COOL BOOK, IT JUST NEVER COMES OUT ON TIME.



"LAST ISSUE, THE SQUADRON WAS CAPTURED BY THE 'SHADOW MEN'."

"HONESTLY, IT'S LOOKING PRETTY BAD FOR THEM."

GREAT FAMILY OF RAYON!
THE SHADOW MIGHT HIT ME WITH A REPULSION RAY!


HELLO? STRANGE BOY?

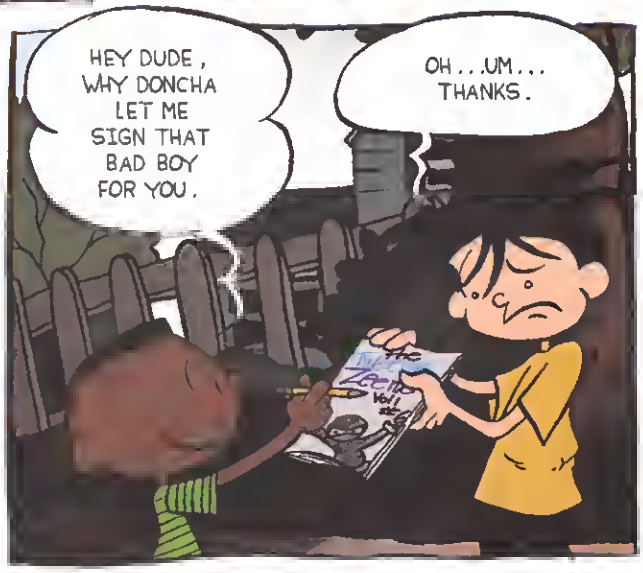
MY NAME IS JOANNE HANNIGAN.
AND THIS IS MY ASSOCIATE SAM ALLEN.
AND GUESS WHAT? SAM'S AN ARTIST.
'SUP?

AND GUESS WHAT? I PUBLISH A LOCAL MAGAZINE CALLED 'THE TWEENIE ZEENIE'.

MAYBE YOU'VE HEARD OF IT?
'THE TWEENIE ZEENIE'? I DON'T THINK SO.

REALLY? OH, WOW, ARE YOU IN FOR A TREAT. 'CUZ GUESS WHAT? 'TWEENIE ZEENIE' IS PACKED WITH EXCITING STORIES OF ADVENTURE AND INTRIGUE, ALL ILLUSTRATED BY THE FAMOUS ARTIST SAM. AND GUESS WHAT? IT ONLY COSTS ONE DOLLAR.
THAT'S A BARGAIN, HOMES.

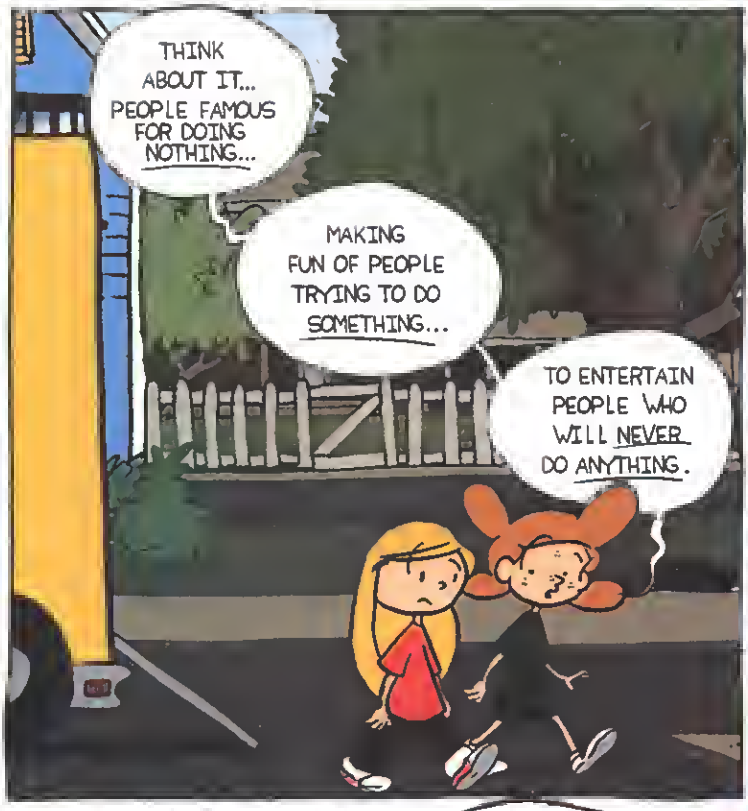
OH...UH... A DOLLAR? OH...OKAY
THANK YOU.


HEY DUDE, WHY DONCHA LET ME SIGN THAT BAD BOY FOR YOU.
OH...UM... THANKS.

How about you handsome?
A little literary joy?
Hmm? It's just a dollar!
One Eensie-Weensie... Dollar?
Hmm?
AH YES...
I SEE
YOO HOO? ♪OTHER♪ ♪BOYEEE?
GUESS WHAT? WE'RE RUNNING A SPECIAL ON SUBSCRIPTIONS.
?
ONE DOLLAR OFF A SIX ISSUE SUB.
THE COUPON IS INSIDE THE BACK.
I'M SURE YOU'LL BE THE ENVY...
OF YOUR MONETARILY CHALLENGED FRIENDS.

WELL THANKS SO MUCH FOR YOUR PATRONAGE.
DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE.
LATER DUDES.
LATER.
oh BROTHER!
I'M SUCH A SUCKER.
I'D BUY USED KITTY LITTER IF THE SALES GIRL WAS CUTE.
SIGH

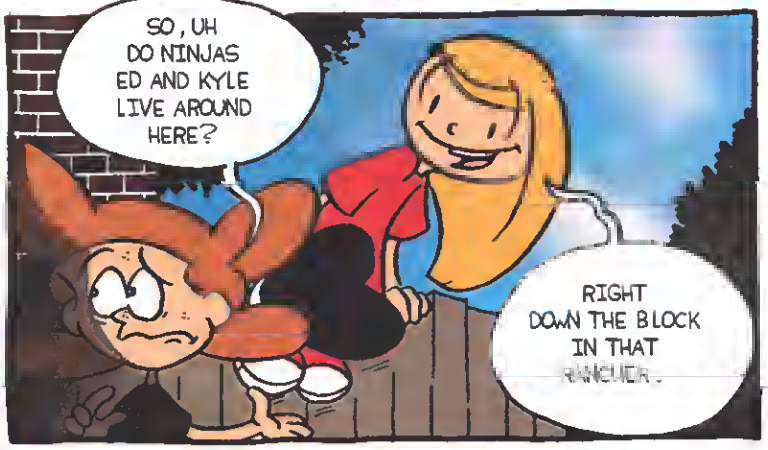
RUSTLE RUSTLE CREEK!
WE SHOULD HEAD BACK BEFORE WE MEET ANY MORE WEIRDOS.
WHAT WAS...?
uh oh.
AAAARGH!
EEEEAAAGH!
AAAAAAAG
ACK!
OH THIS IS TERRIFIC.

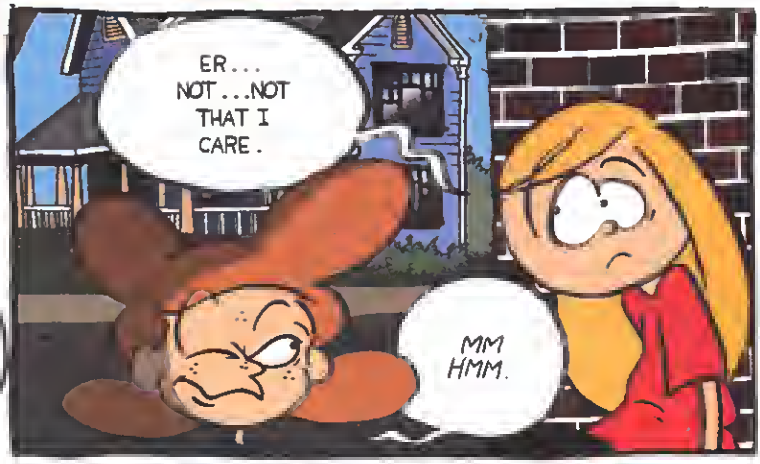

THINK ABOUT IT... PEOPLE FAMOUS FOR DOING NOTHING...
MAKING FUN OF PEOPLE TRYING TO DO SOMETHING...
TO ENTERTAIN PEOPLE WHO WILL NEVER DO ANYTHING.

AND YOUR POINT IS?

'AMERICAN IDOL' IS THE WORK OF THE DEVIL.

YOU ARE TOTALLY MESSED UP.
SO I'VE HEARD.
SO THIS IS PARK VIEW TERRACE?


SO, UH DO NINJAS ED AND KYLE LIVE AROUND HERE?
RIGHT DOWN THE BLOCK IN THAT RANCHER.


ER... NOT...NOT THAT I CARE.
MM HMM.

SO THE FAMOUS CAPTAIN AMAZING, MY ARCH FOE.
WE MEET AT LAST... AGAIN... AT LAST.

YEAH! HEY HOW ABOUT LETTIN' ME OUT SO I CAN SHAKE YOUR NECK...I MEAN HAND.

I DON'T THINK SO BOOGER FACE.

WE KNOW A COUPLE OF SPIES WHEN WE SEE 'EM.
YEAH, WE'RE DYING TO KNOW WHERE YOU GOT THOSE OUTFITS.

HEY! MY MOM MADE THESE FOR US.
I THINK THEY'RE PRETTY COOL
OH THEY ARE. SWEAT SUIT NINJAS ARE TOTALLY "IN" THIS SEASON

HEY! YOU MAY BE A BIG SUPERHERO CLUB WHERE YOU'RE FROM...

BUT HERE IN PARK VIEW TERRACE, WE NINJAS RULE!
HE-YAH

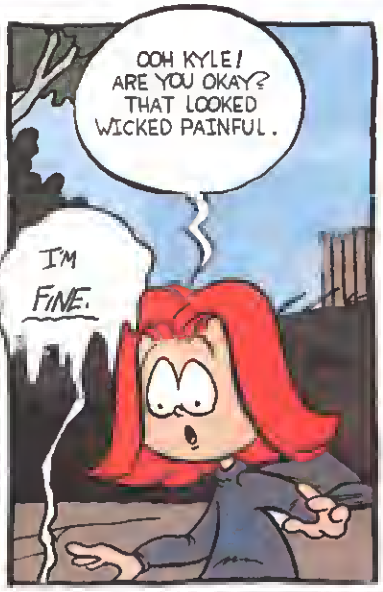
OH YEAH? IS THAT 'CUZ OF YOUR MASTERY OF THE 'SISSY BOY SLAP TECHNIQUE'?

KEEP IT UP, PAL, AND YOU'LL GET ONE OF THESE
HE-

YAHGH
THUMP

THAT WAS THE GREATEST MOMENT OF MY LIFE.

NOBODY SAY A WORD.


OOH KYLE! ARE YOU OKAY? THAT LOOKED WICKED PAINFUL.
I'M FINE.

UH KYLE? IF YOU'RE OKAY, MAYBE WE SHOULD GET ROLLING I'M A LITTLE WORRIED...
ABOUT OUR ISSIONMAY?

ISSIONMAY?
YOU KNOW, THE 'EGIONLAY OF EVESTAY'.

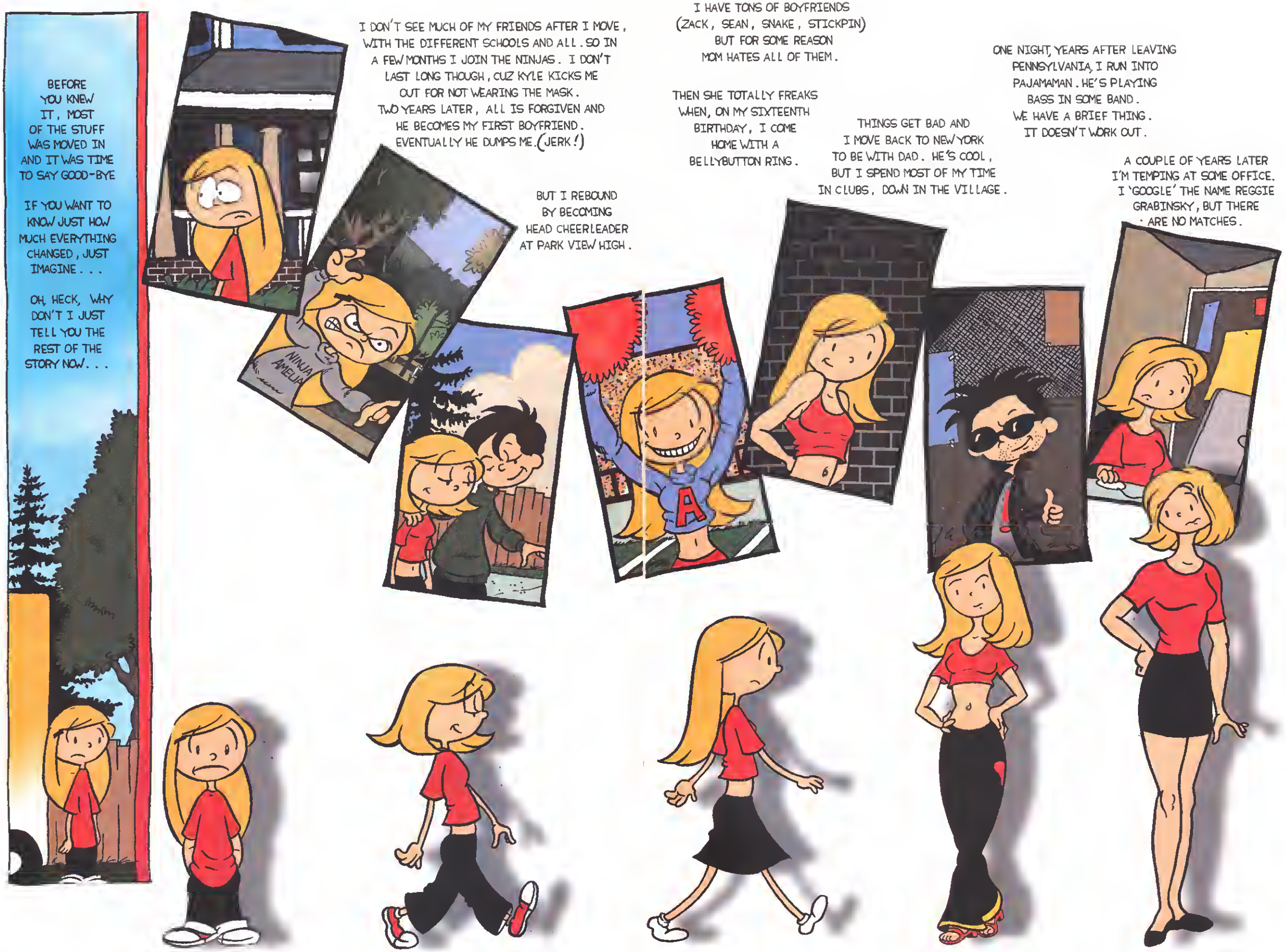
OH IGHTRAY! THE EGIONLAY! I ALMOST ORGOTFAY.
IF WE URRYHAY WE IGHTMAY STILL ATCHCAY EMTHAY.

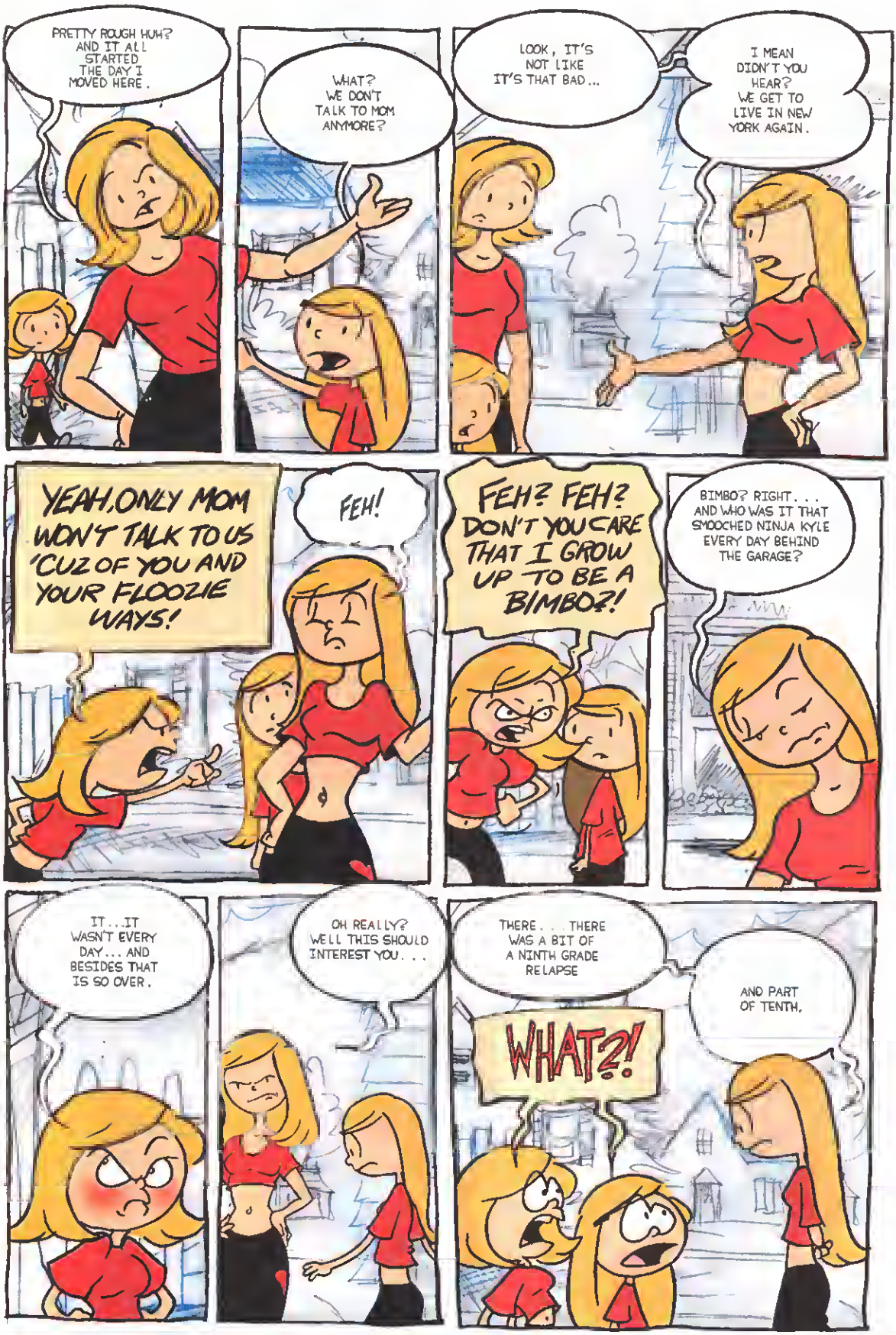
WHO'S THE 'LEGION OF STEVES?'

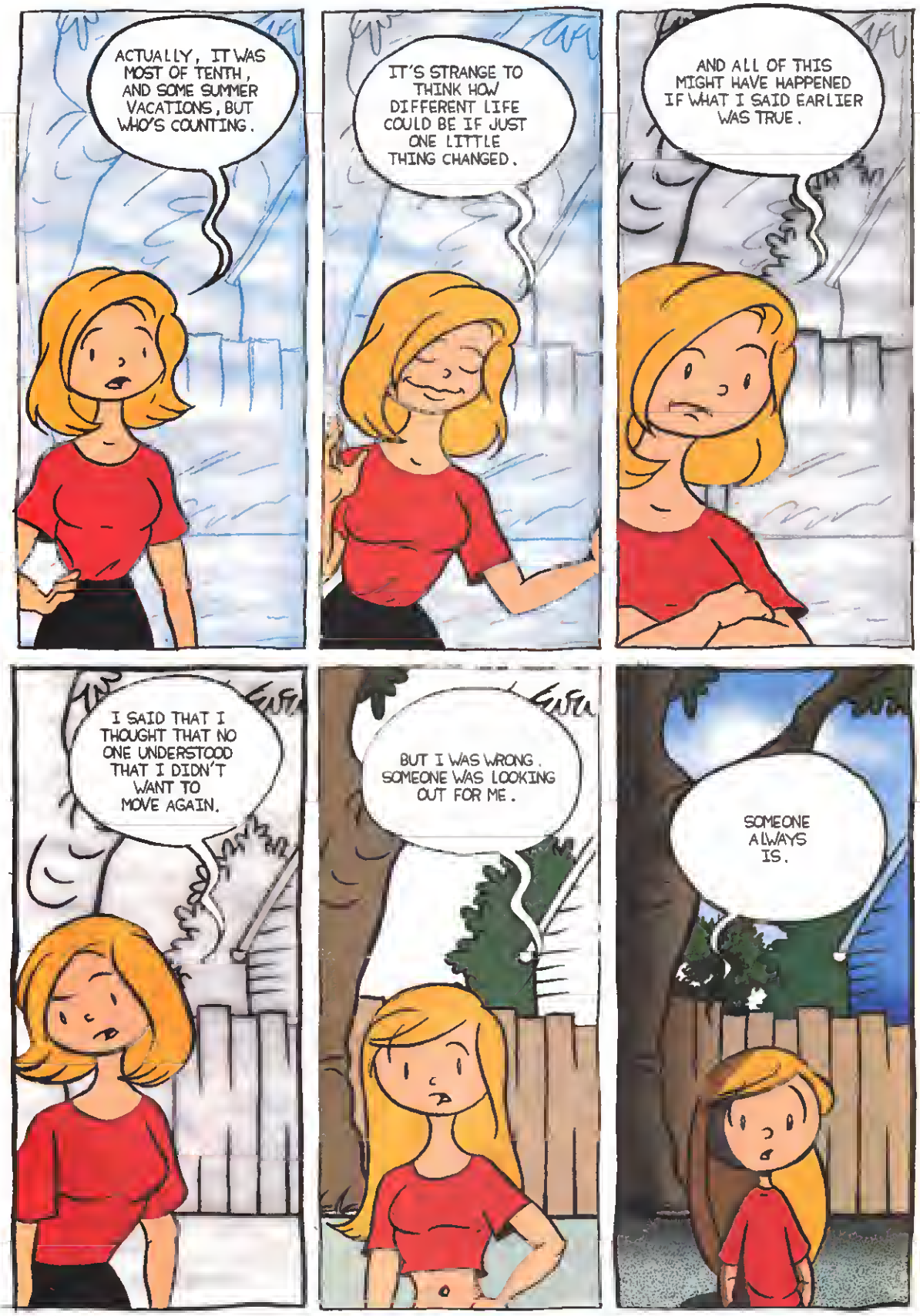
Leg..uh...
OH! umm...
NINJA KYLE

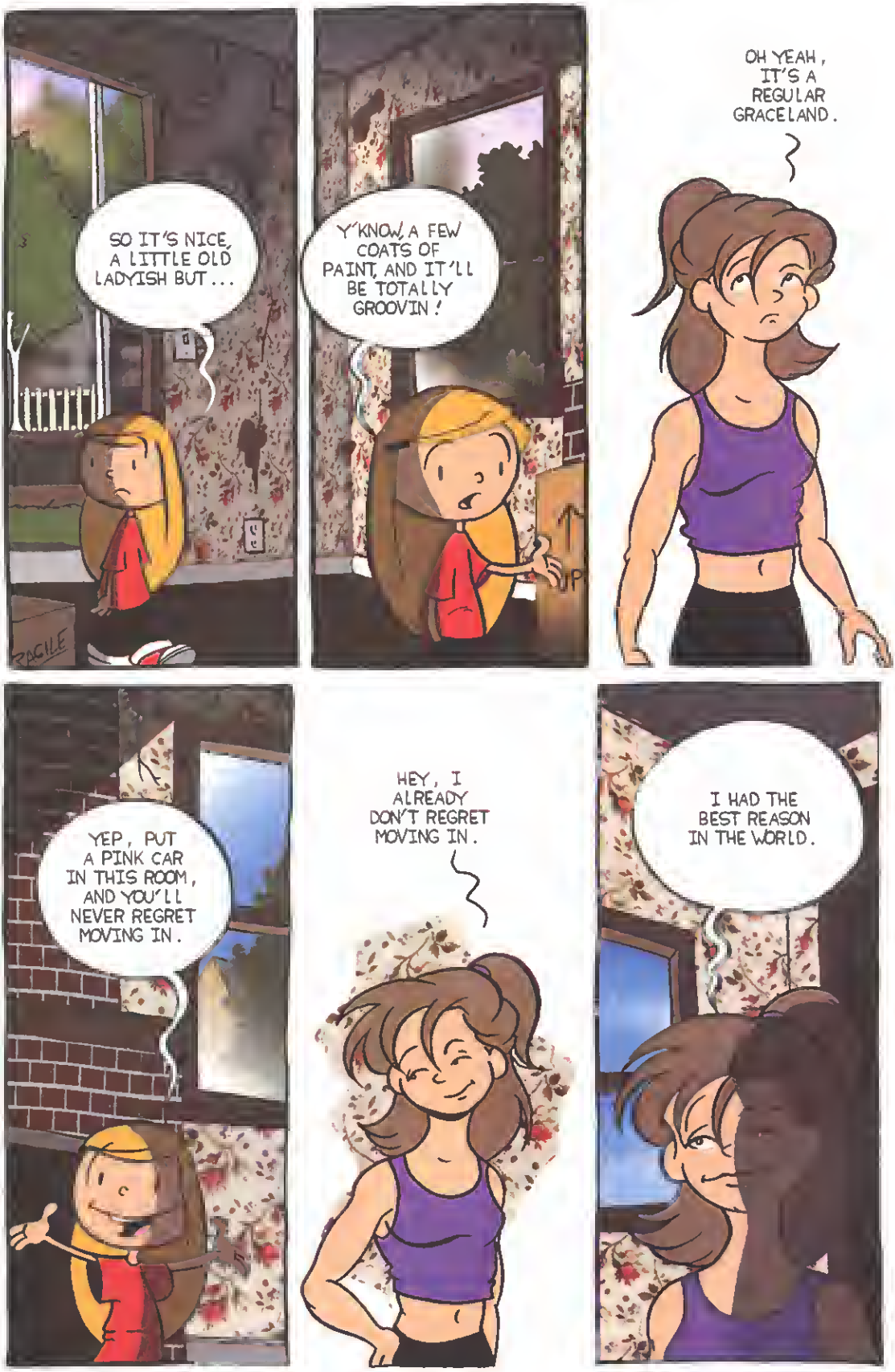
I OLDTAY OUYAY OTNAY OTAY ALKTAY BOUTAY ECRETSAY INJANAY UFFSTAY EARNAY OTENTIALPAY INJANAY IVALRAYS! OUYAY OOFUSDAY!
NINJA KYLE

THEY OBVIOUSLY EAKSPAY IGPAY ATINLAY.
THEN WHY ARE YOU STILL SPEAKING IT YOU ERKJAY?
NINJA KYLE


BEFORE YOU KNEW IT, MOST OF THE STUFF WAS MOVED IN AND IT WAS TIME TO SAY GOOD-BYE
IF YOU WANT TO KNOW JUST HOW MUCH EVERYTHING CHANGED, JUST IMAGINE...
OH, HECK, WHY DON'T I JUST TELL YOU THE REST OF THE STORY NOW...
I DON'T SEE MUCH OF MY FRIENDS AFTER I MOVE, WITH THE DIFFERENT SCHOOLS AND ALL. SO IN A FEW MONTHS I JOIN THE NINJAS. I DON'T LAST LONG THOUGH, CUZ KYLE KICKS ME OUT FOR NOT WEARING THE MASK. TWO YEARS LATER, ALL IS FORGIVEN AND HE BECOMES MY FIRST BOYFRIEND. EVENTUALLY HE DUMPS ME. (JERK!)
NINJA AMELIA
BUT I REBOUND BY BECOMING HEAD CHEERLEADER AT PARK VIEW HIGH.
A
I HAVE TONS OF BOYFRIENDS (ZACK, SEAN, SNAKE, STICKPIN) BUT FOR SOME REASON MOM HATES ALL OF THEM.
THEN SHE TOTALLY FREAKS WHEN, ON MY SIXTEENTH BIRTHDAY, I COME HOME WITH A BELLYBUTTON RING.
THINGS GET BAD AND I MOVE BACK TO NEW YORK TO BE WITH DAD. HE'S COOL, BUT I SPEND MOST OF MY TIME IN CLUBS, DOWN IN THE VILLAGE.
ONE NIGHT, YEARS AFTER LEAVING PENNSYLVANIA, I RUN INTO PAJAMAMAN. HE'S PLAYING BASS IN SOME BAND. WE HAVE A BRIEF THING. IT DOESN'T WORK OUT.
A COUPLE OF YEARS LATER I'M TEMPING AT SOME OFFICE. I 'GOOGLE' THE NAME REGGIE GRABINSKY, BUT THERE ARE NO MATCHES.


PRETTY ROUGH HUH? AND IT ALL STARTED THE DAY I MOVED HERE.
WHAT? WE DON'T TALK TO MOM ANYMORE?
LOOK, IT'S NOT LIKE IT'S THAT BAD...
I MEAN DIDN'T YOU HEAR? WE GET TO LIVE IN NEW YORK AGAIN.
YEAH, ONLY MOM WON'T TALK TO US 'CUZ OF YOU AND YOUR FLOOZIE WAYS!
FEH!
FEH? FEH? DON'T YOU CARE THAT I GROW UP TO BE A BIMBO?!
BIMBO? RIGHT... AND WHO WAS IT THAT SMOOCHED NINJA KYLE EVERY DAY BEHIND THE GARAGE?
IT...IT WASN'T EVERY DAY... AND BESIDES THAT IS SO OVER.
OH REALLY? WELL THIS SHOULD INTEREST YOU...
THERE... THERE WAS A BIT OF A NINTH GRADE RELAPSE
AND PART OF TENTH.
WHAT?!


ACTUALLY, IT WAS MOST OF TENTH, AND SOME SUMMER VACATIONS, BUT WHO'S COUNTING.
IT'S STRANGE TO THINK HOW DIFFERENT LIFE COULD BE IF JUST ONE LITTLE THING CHANGED.
AND ALL OF THIS MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED IF WHAT I SAID EARLIER WAS TRUE.
I SAID THAT I THOUGHT THAT NO ONE UNDERSTOOD THAT I DIDN'T WANT TO MOVE AGAIN.
BUT I WAS WRONG. SOMEONE WAS LOOKING OUT FOR ME.
SOMEONE ALWAYS IS.


SO IT'S NICE, A LITTLE OLD LADYISH BUT...
Y'KNOW, A FEW COATS OF PAINT, AND IT'LL BE TOTALLY GROOVIN!
OH YEAH, IT'S A REGULAR GRACELAND.
YEP, PUT A PINK CAR IN THIS ROOM, AND YOU'LL NEVER REGRET MOVING IN.
HEY, I ALREADY DON'T REGRET MOVING IN.
I HAD THE BEST REASON IN THE WORLD.

TANNER KNEW WHAT MOVING WOULD MEAN TO ME. SHE KNEW HOW BADLY IT WOULD MAKE ME FEEL.
SHE NEVER SAID THAT WAS WHY SHE DECIDED TO TAKE THE HOUSE INSTEAD OF MOM, BUT I KNEW.
I KNEW.
JUST LAST YEAR SHE OPENED UP HER HOUSE TO ME AND MOM, AND NOW SHE WAS GIVING IT UP ALL TOGETHER, JUST FOR ME.
AND NOW I'M STANDING HERE, AND MOM IS IN THE CAR...
SHE'S WAITING TO TAKE ME BACK HOME...
BACK TO OUR HOME, BUT I DON'T WANT TO MOVE MY FEET...
I WANT TO SAY SOMETHING TO TANNER, BUT I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING.

SO I RUN BACK IN, AND
I JUMP UP ON HER, AND
I'M HUGGING HER AROUND
HER NECK, AND I START
CRYING, AND SHE STARTS
LAUGHING, AND I
STILL CAN'T THINK
OF ANYTHING TO SAY.

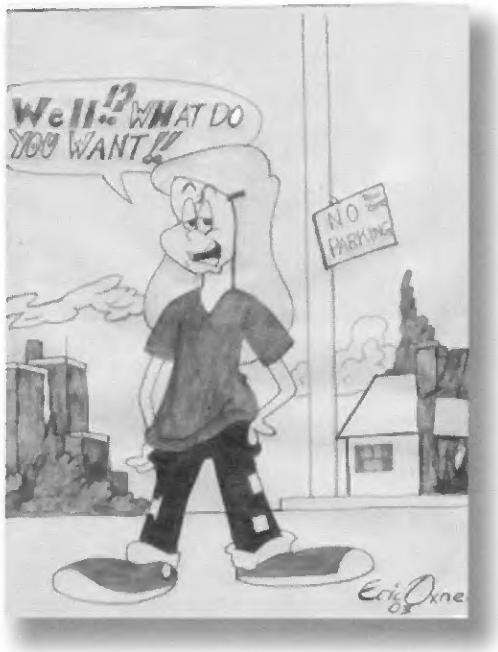
BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER,
'CUZ SUPERHEROES
NEVER NEED TO BE
THANKED ANYWAY.

Aren't They Cute?

Say hello to Stella Mary, and Anna Elizabeth Gownley. Our lovely twin daughters were born on October 4th at 1:33 and 1:35 am respectively. They are both just beautiful, taking after their mother.

Amelia With a 'Tude.

Thanks to Eric Oxner for sending in the cool Amelia drawing on the right. Good Job!



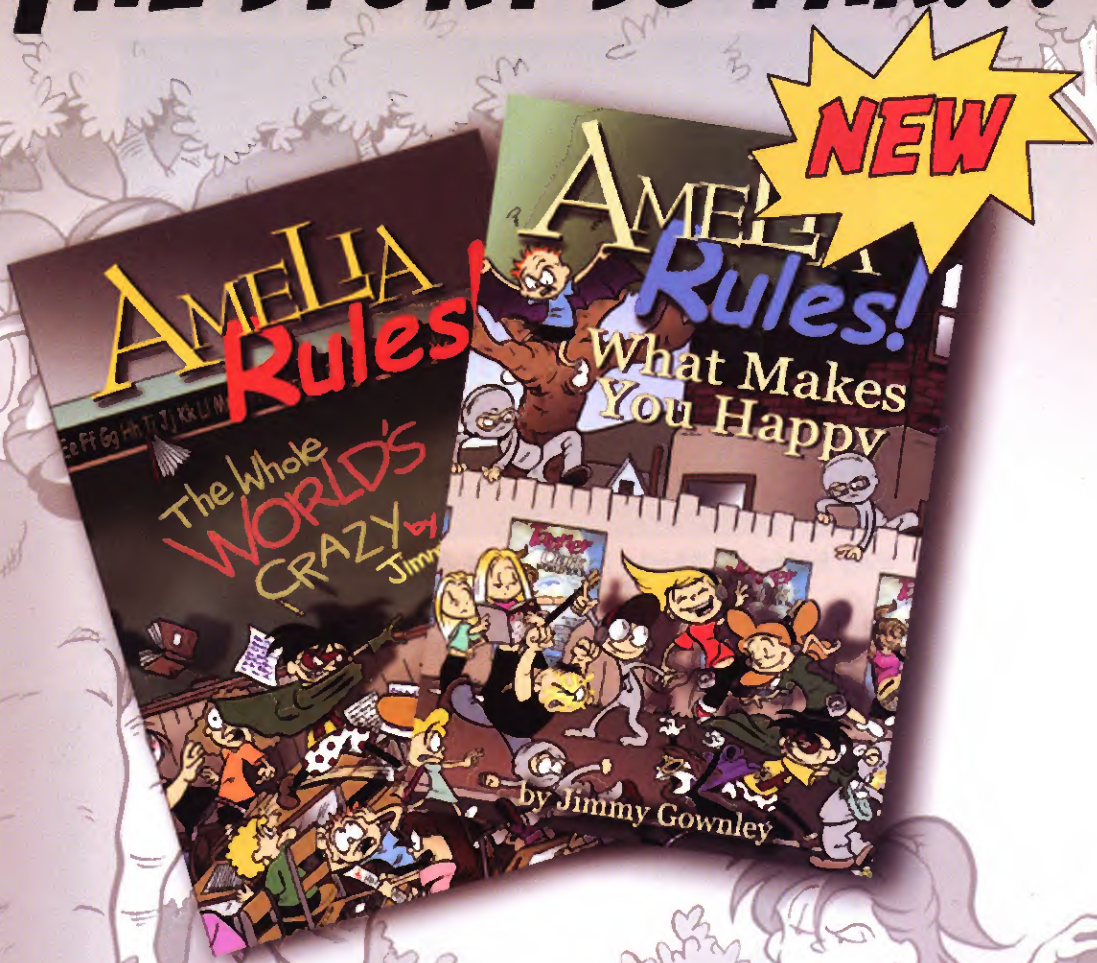
FREE COMIC BOOK DAY

As step one of our Campaign, we are participating in "Free Comic Book Day" this special edition volume is 32 pages, full color, and represents the best and funniest Amelia moments in the story so far.

Free Comic Book Day is July 3rd, so make sure your retailer orders plenty of Amelias

Jimmy Gownley will appear at Cards, Comics, and Collectibles in Baltimore, MD on Free Comic Book Day

THE STORY SO FAR...



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